

Pending claims 2 - 6, 8 - 9, 11 - 16 and 18 - 19 are dependent claims that depend on independent claims 1, 7, 10 and 17 respectively. Because the parent independent claims are patentable over the cited art as discussed above, these dependent claims are likewise patentable over the reference because they incorporate the limitations of their respective parent independent claim.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1 - 19 are patentable. Further, all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed herein. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

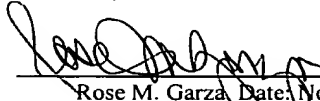
Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: November 20, 2002

By: 

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